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# Farm Broadcasters Letter



Letter No. 2235

October 24, 1985

## U.S.-SOVIET TALKS

The U.S. and the Soviet have concluded another meeting in the regular series of semi-annual consultations called for under the current U.S.-USSR grain agreement, which extends through Sept. 30, 1988. The USSR confirmed that purchases of U.S. grain for shipment in the second agreement year, Oct. 1984 through Sept. 1985, have reached over 18.6 million metric tons, including 15.8 million tons of corn and approximately 2.9 million tons of wheat. The current agreement calls for minimum annual shipments of 9 million tons, of which at least 4 million must be wheat and 4 million must be corn.

## DAIRY PRODUCTS TO AUSTRIA

Sec'y of Agriculture John R. Block announced a sale of more than \$6.3 million worth of surplus U.S. dairy products to Austria. The sale consisted of nearly 40 million pounds of standard grade nonfat dry milk, for use as a calf milk replacer. The sale represents 24 pct. of the Commodity Credit Corporation's standard grade inventory.

## U.S. AG. EXPORTS DOWN 17%

Rising foreign production, falling prices, and shrinking volume pushed down U.S. agricultural exports 17 pct. in value during the first 11 months of the fiscal year 1985 to \$29.3 billion from \$35.1 billion a year earlier. Strong increases in overseas production of wheat, coarse grains, and soybeans outstripped modest gains in consumption, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Lower soybean and coarse grain prices depressed export values for those commodities 16 and 15 percent, respectively. Agricultural export volume fell 10 pct. to 119 million metric tons, led by an 8.5-ton decline in wheat exports and a 3-million-ton drop in soybean exports.

## EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INCREASES SUPPORTS

The European Community Commission announced 5- to 10- percent increases in export refunds for most dairy products, effective Sept. 28. The magnitude of the increases matches fairly closely the decline in the value of the dollar against European currencies. Thus, any improvement that would be expected in U.S. competitiveness due to the decline in the value of the dollar is negated by the EC's action.

## NOTE TO FARM BROADCASTERS

The Crop Reporting Board calendar and a catalog covering all releases scheduled for 1986 will be available free to farm broadcasters in early December. For copies, write the Crop Reporting Board, Rm. 5829 South, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250, or telephone (202) 447-4021.

# CANADA SUSPENDS NEW EXPORT SALES

Canada's suspension of new export sales of higher grades of wheat to occasional customers may allow the U.S. to increase its export of milling wheat, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Canadian Wheat Board's restriction on sales of No. 1 and No. 2 Canadian Western Red Spring came as a result of continued adverse weather that has seriously hurt the quality and yield of the spring wheat crop. The sales restriction will not be lifted until the entire harvest is in and the supply situation assessed. Canadian exports of high quality wheat to its traditional customers and to those with whom it has long-term agreements are expected to continue on schedule.

# EXPORTS TO LAT. AM. FALL

U.S. farm exports to Latin America will fall in 1985 and 1986, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. U.S. agricultural sales to Latin America may fall to \$4.7 billion in FY 1985 and to \$4.6 billion in 1986 from \$5.3 billion in 1984, depending on the region's weather and Mexico's buying activity. U.S. farm export values to Latin America remain about \$5 billion a year but may decline because U.S. grain and oilseed prices are depressed, crop yields in Latin America are slightly above average, and recent price-cutting tactics of U.S. competitors have partially displaced some U.S. grain and oilseed sales.

# U.S. FARM IMPORTS UP

Unfavorable weather conditions and higher prices for fruits, fruit juices and vegetable oils boosted U.S. agricultural imports to \$18.1 billion during the first 11 months of Fiscal Year 1985, 5 percent above those of the same period in 1984, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A January freeze in Florida and a spring frost in the Northwest spurred fruit imports 4 pct. and vegetable imports 5 pct.

# FARMERS & FINANCIAL STRESS

Record or near-record ending stocks for several major crops have pushed price forecasts near or below the loan rate for 1985/86, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Government dairy purchases were equal to about 11 billion pounds of milk on milkfat basis, up 36 pct. from the same period in 1984. The 1985 wheat crop is the smallest in 5 years. Prices have not strengthened because early-season export demand is the slowest in over a dozen years. Corn exports for this season are expected to be 1 billion, 625 million bushels, a decline of about 225 million from 1984/85. (For more information, call Herb Moses, 202/786-3313.)

# CHICKENS CONTINUE WORKING

The Nation's laying flocks produced 5.55 billion eggs during Sept. 1985, down 1 percent from the 5.62 billion produced a year ago, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Production included 4.97 billion table or commercial type eggs and 583 million hatching eggs. The total number of layers during Sept. averaged 275 million, 1 pct. fewer than the 279 million a year ago. The Sept. production per 100 layers was 2018 eggs, compared with 2014 eggs for Sept. 1984. (For more statistical info, call 202-447-2123.)

FROM OUR  
TELEVISION  
SERVICE

RAIL DEREGULATION...Martin Fitzpatrick with USDA's Office of Transportation reports on the findings of a 4-year study of rail deregulation legislation and changes made that affect rail deregulation. Vic Powell interviews. (496)

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY ACCIDENT...Martin Fitzpatrick with USDA's Office of Transportation talks about the recent closing of the St. Lawrence Seaway and the impact it will have on U.S. and Canadian sales commitments. Vic Powell interviews. (497)

AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK...Record or near-record ending stocks for several major crops have pushed price forecasts near or below the loan rate for 1985-86. USDA economist Herb Moses examines the current situation and outlook for agriculture. Vic Powell interviews. (498)

FINANCIAL RANKING OF FARM SECTOR...The financial ranking of the farm sector in 1984 on a state-by-state basis has been compiled. USDA economist Sandra Suddendorf describes what happened in some major farm states. Vic Powell interviews. (499)

CORPORATE FARMING...Robert Thompson, Assistant Secretary for Economics with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, focuses on corporate farming - what it is and some of the reasons why family farms incorporate. Jim Johnson interviews. (500)

FARM TRADE  
BENEFITS  
ALL

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. agricultural exports benefit both the farm and nonfarm sectors by generating employment, income and purchasing power. Each dollar received from farm product exports in calendar year 1984 stimulated another \$1.35 - or an additional \$51 billion - in supporting activity to produce the exports. An estimated 1.1 million full-time civilian jobs were related to agricultural exports, including 629,000 jobs in the nonfarm sector.

USDA GRANTS  
TO MINORITY  
STUDENTS IN AG.

This month the U.S. Department of Agriculture begins awarding \$2 million in strengthening grants to 18 land-grant colleges and universities, according to Sec'y of Agriculture John R. Block. The grants will help the educational institutions improve faculty and the quality of instruction, and to recruit and retain minority students in agriculture and food sciences fields.

ST. LAWRENCE  
SEAWAY &  
SUNFLOWERS

The damaged lock on the St. Lawrence Seaway may have an adverse effect on U.S. sunflowerseed exports, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The sunflower crop in N. Dakota, S. Dakota and Minnesota is about two weeks away from large scale harvesting and delivery to traditional ports in the Great Lakes. How much U.S. exports are affected will depend on how long the repairs take and whether the Seaway Authority keeps the Seaway open two or three weeks past the normal closing date in December.

COTTON  
PRICES

Foreign cotton prices have declined 8 cents per pound during the past six weeks while U.S. prices have been virtually unchanged, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The spread between U.S. and foreign prices is now about 19 cents. U.S. export sales have slowed to a trickle as foreign countries compete to move surplus cotton and earn foreign exchange.



OFF MIKE

Miles Carter is the new farm director at KMZU, Carrollton, MO. He took Randall Wiseman's place who left the station to manage a fast food restaurant but has since returned to the station as a nighttime disc jockey ... Lee Morgan is the new farm director at WACV, Montgomery, AL. He left WLWI, same city, when that station dropped farm broadcasting from the program schedule ... Dan Staehr will be leaving KLIN in Lincoln, NE, the end of the month to become a boy scout executive with the Cornhusker Council in Lincoln. When Dan leaves, the station will drop farm broadcasting from the program log ... Bill Satterfield (WSBY, Salisbury, MD) stopped by the office last week for a visit on his way to someplace else (we get a lot of visitors that way). He drove to Washington, D.C. and parked his car at National Airport...in satellite parking...almost back to Salisbury, to hear Bill tell about it ... Mark Vail (Kansas Ag Net, Topeka, KS) is the first president of the newly formed Kansas Farm Writers and Broadcasters Association. About 40 attended the organizational meeting, and by this time next year the association expects to have 80-120 members ... A new newsletter hit our desk recently...called "Lews News." The "Lew" in this case is Lew Middleton (WQHK, Fort Wayne, IN). It's a good looking publication filled with information. Which gives us an excuse to remind you that if you produce a newsletter, regularly or once-in-awhile, put us on the mailing list ... Final item is kinda old but an interesting one. Krit Stubblefield (Kentucky Agri-Net, Louisville, KY) participated in the National Cattlemen's Association meeting in Kentucky this past summer, part of which was a five-bus tour through the surrounding countryside. On Krit's bus there were cattlemen from throughout the country and most had never seen tobacco growing before. When they learned Krit was a broadcaster and knew about tobacco, they immediately recruited him as their official tour guide. Just goes to show that farm broadcasters fill many roles.

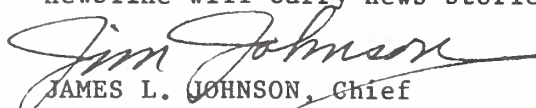
FROM OUR RADIO  
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1481...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) The world grain market these days is unpredictable and can change drastically in a very short time. How does this affect farmers and how should farm policy deal with it? Brenda Curtis explores this issue with two experts.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1471...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; A more flexible farm policy?; Deer fences; Atrazine for better grass?; Beef consumption down.

CONSUMER TIME #964...(Weekly reel of five 2½-3 min features) Financial planners; Who needs a financial planner; Zap weeds now!; Fall is lawn time; Higher beef prices.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Thurs, Oct. 31, Ag prices; Tues, Nov. 5, Crop and weather update; Fri, Nov. 8, Horticultural product exports; Tues, Nov. 12, U.S. crop production, World ag. supply and demand, Soviet crop production, Grain stocks. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EDT each working day. NOTE: We show several days in early November for which there are no scheduled USDA reports, but our newslines will carry news stories every weekday.

  
JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief  
Radio-Television Division